

OAKLAND COUNTY SUPPORTS HB 4893

10/19/2009

SUBMISSION TO HOUSE HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE

- Oakland County and its Medical Examiner's Office support HB 4893 which allows medical examiners to retain body parts that are necessary for determining the cause of death and the disposal of those body parts as medical waste.
- Occasionally, it is necessary to retain body parts (such as the brain) long after the decedent's funeral has taken place.
- Oakland County and its Medical Examiner have been sued on this issue. Further information about the lawsuit can be found at <http://medicalexaminerlawsuit.com>. The case is on appeal. Oakland County is not seeking any relief with respect to the pending case – that is for the Court to decide.
- The Medical Examiner's statute should be amended as proposed so that the rights of the Medical Examiner and the next of kin are clearly spelled out, so that this type of claim does not recur in the future. This issue will impact the Medical Examiners in all 83 counties.
- Similar legislation was adopted in Ohio when they confronted the same issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

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